

California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

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December 9, 2004

Bush Taps Nicholson for Veterans Affairs

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WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Bush announced on Thursday that Jim Nicholson, former chairman of the Republican National Committee and current U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, is his choice as the next secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department. Bush has also asked the secretaries of the Transportation, Labor, Interior and Housing departments to remain and they have all agreed, completing decisions about which Cabinet members will stay for his second term.

Bush spoke with the four Cabinet secretaries - Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao - to secure their decisions to remain in the Cabinet, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

Veterans Secretary Anthony Principi on Wednesday became the ninth member of Bush's 15-person Cabinet to leave. Nicholson, chosen to replace him, is a decorated Vietnam veteran.

"Jim Nicholson is a patriot, a man of deep conviction who has answered his country's call many times," Bush said in the brief Roosevelt Room announcement ceremony.

For the complete AP story, click on the following:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/B/BUSH_CABINET?SITE=DCTMS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

For statements by the President and Ambassador Nicholson, click on the following:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/12/20041209-5.html>

For a bio on Jim Nicholson, see the following Word document:

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